

Girl Scouts are taking action to make the world a better place

Girl Scouts take the lead and change the world! Not only do they make the world a better place, they improve their own lives, become more successful in life and in business, are more involved in their communities, are more likely to stand up for their beliefs and values, and are more satisfied with their lives. At a time in history when giving girls the tools to fulfill their ambitions is more important than ever, Girl Scouting is proving to be exactly what they need.

"I have some pretty amazing girls," said Jessica Joyal, leader of Troop 51226 in Swanzey, NH. "They are always so giving. They are the most generous individuals and I am so proud of them! We are always giving back to our community."

Taking action translates into cleaning up parks and roads, planting trees,



Girl Scout Troop 58461 in Pelham, NH, cleaned up the Elmer G. Raymond Scout Lodge this spring, including planting a tree to fulfill the Girl Scout Tree Promise. (Courtesy photo)

helping animal shelters, building buddy benches, cheering up the elderly, and so much more. Even the Girl Scout Daisies in kindergarten and first grade can explain why it's important to keep the world cleaned up, collect food for the hungry, or create cheerful cards and packages for senior living homes. Focusing on the four pillars of the Girl Scout program – STEM, outdoors, entrepreneurship, and life skills – Girl Scouts build a foundation for success and gain the skills to make a difference.

Everything that Girl Scouts do strengthens their skills and gives them the confidence to take action in many ways. They are becoming financially literate through the Girl Scout Cookie Program and partnerships with businesses like

Fidelity Investments. Girl Scouts are caring for the environment with clean-ups and by participating in the Girl Scout Tree Promise – a five-year effort to appreciate and learn about trees, and even plant 5 million more trees across the country. They are becoming citizen scientists, robotics champions, and engineering experts.

Girls push their boundaries as they earn the highest awards in Girl Scouting, the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Girls in fourth and fifth grades have earned the highest award available to their age level, the Bronze Award, where they have taken action to things like building bat and bird houses to help threatened populations in Vermont.



Milton, VT, Daisy Troop 60336 helped out with Green Up Day on Saturday, May 1, by picking up trash at local parks and having fun along the way. (Courtesy photo)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

To donate to Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, visit: girlscoutsgwm.org/donate.

To learn more, contact the Advancement office by emailing advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org or calling 888-474-9686.

Girl Scouts are taking action

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Girls in sixth through eighth grades have earned their highest honor, the Silver Award, with projects like replacing picnic tables at a Vermont preschool, creating a mural out of old bottle caps to raise awareness of recycling, and more. The Gold Award is available to girls in grades 9-12, and Girl Scouts this past year have worked to help children through pandemic changes, installed mile markers to make a rail trail safer, created webinars and inspirational wall hangings to help high schoolers and their parents deal with the stresses of the pandemic, created videos to get people outdoors, and more.

These experiences prepare girls for success in life as well as bettering the world. Peggy Small-Porter, executive director of the Richie McFarland Children's Center in Stratham, NH, and mentor to Gold Award Girl Scout Molly Ewing, was effusive in her assessment of Ewing's effort to educate the public about the role of nonprofits in town affairs.

"Tackling this project took a level of clarity of purpose that in my opinion is far beyond her years," said Small-Porter. "I hope she feels successful, confident, but always wanting more. I believe her determination and curiosity will take her far."

The adults who volunteer to guide girls through their Girl Scout experience are a crucial component to their success. Heather Preuss of Milton, VT, is one of many leaders who has helped Girl Scouts see the value of taking action. Her troop researched how to bring more birds into the Milton recreational area, and they decided to make 32 bird houses and installed them along the Lamoille River Walk and in the Milton Town Forest.

"I'm super proud of all the girls in our Ser-



Spreading messages of hope and caring were part of several Gold Award Girl Scouts' efforts to combat mental health issues during the pandemic. Mansi Mathur, of Amherst, NH, poses with one of the positive message canvases she painted for her high school. (Courtesy photo)

vice Unit," she said. Twenty girls earned their Bronze Award in 2020 for that work.

It may come as no surprise to anyone who has spent time as a Girl Scout, but now there's research to show that our programs have a positive impact on the lives of girls and women. The Girl Scout Research Institute recently conducted a national study showing that participating in Girl Scouts is a powerful factor for developing courage, confidence, and character, which in turn build a foundation for success in education and careers, enable a lifetime of leadership, and provide high levels of life satisfaction. Alumni assert that Girl Scouts set them on a path for achievement, connected them to something bigger than themselves, and helped them develop their passions and interests. Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains confirms this finding. We watch girls progress through their Girl Scout Experience and become more courageous and confident, changing the world for the better.

Taking action is part of a Girl Scout's DNA



Dear friends,

As a Brownie Girl Scout, I remember that one of our first activities was packing up snacks and gardening supplies, and going around to homes near our meeting place raking the yards of our elderly neighbors. Helping others while learning teamwork was such a great feeling, and we did it all with our “great big Brownie smile[s].” From that early beginning, service projects were an essential element of each of my troops, eventually culminating in my Gold Award Take Action project working to clean and reopen to the public a small polluted lake.

Reading through *The Trailblazer*, you will see that today’s Girl Scouts continue to focus their energies on helping others to make our world a better place. Many, but not all, girls go on to earn their highest awards through their efforts. And service does not end with graduation, but continues into the lives of our Girl Scout alumnae. Clearly taking action is an essential element of our Girl Scout DNA!

I would also like to thank and highlight our donors who make these efforts possible. The generosity in support of our Cookie Program surpassed all expectations and we are humbled by the donations we received. Please be sure to join us in thanking the many organizations and individuals who are highlighted for our Operation Cookie Gift of Caring and Hometown Hero Programs, as well as the many anonymous individuals who made donations through our troops.

Girl Scouts of every age still wear a “G” for generosity and in doing so, they learn skills essential to success in today’s challenging and fast paced world. Each of you makes this possible, through your time and support, and we are so grateful that you live each day guided by our Promise and Law.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia K. Mellor
Chief Executive Officer, GSGWM
Gold Award Girl Scout

Have a say in what happens to your money



You’ve probably opened a bank account, set up a retirement plan, or taken out an insurance policy and completed a form that directs who will inherit the money in that account some day. It’s a simple form that keeps your money out of probate, with no attorneys or hassle for your heirs, reducing expenses to your estate. There’s no limit to the amount you can leave someone, and you can name a charity along with individuals.

You can leave a lasting statement about your commitment to the welfare and growth of girls by naming Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains in such forms. It’s a simple but powerful way to provide long-lasting support to girls across New Hampshire and Vermont. Plus, if your estate is

subject to estate and inheritance tax, you may save your heirs up to 65% tax on your retirement assets!*

All it takes is a simple signature to state your desires.

Other great ways to make your gift to girls:

- Make a gift through your will or estate.
- Give life insurance you no longer need.
- Donate appreciated stock and save on taxes.
- Consider a gift of real estate.
- Make a gift that gives you payments for life.
- Make a gift that protects your assets.

You may also join the Juliette Gordon Low Society, established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouting who choose to make Girl Scouts part of their legacies. See more at girlscoutsgwm.org/juliettegordonlowsociety.

**contact your legal or tax professional for specific advice*

Alum Profile - Christina DiSalvo

Christina M. DiSalvo is a freelance American Sign Language interpreter from Derry, NH, and a 21-year member of Girl Scouts who loves traveling and connecting with other Girl Scout alums.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected what she does a bit, but DiSalvo has been working at Pinkerton Academy as a substitute, along with providing coverage in sign language classes and other subjects that need substitutes during this unique year.

“I used to travel for work and am looking forward to continuing to do so, hopefully with some WAGGGS projects if I am accepted to their National Volunteer Pool and some other programs,” she said.

Giving service is important to her, and she said she is always looking for a group to help at the Sunshine Soup Kitchen in Derry. “That is something I put on hold during COVID, but now that I am fully vaccinated, I'm ready to team up with a group to get back in there!”

DiSalvo just submitted an application



Christina DiSalvo. (Courtesy photo)



Christina DiSalvo visited Pax Lodge and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). (Courtesy photo)

for the Volunteer Resource Pool so that she can get back to serving communities wherever there is a need.

“I used to serve as a full-time volunteer and am anxious to get back to serving again anywhere around the country and the world safely. I'm looking forward to doing this through the Girl Scouts as a resource in their pool,” she said, “and potentially through international travel and service in the Global Opportunities program. I would also love to serve as a full time volunteer again at Pax Lodge any season that they will have me!”

“When the World Centres open safely again,” she said, “I am going to look into their seasonal volunteer programs, too.”

She began her Girl Scout experience as a member of the Swift Water council, now Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains.

“I loved our fun overnights to the Boston Museum of Science and Six Flags New England, and all our camping trips,” she said. “I benefited most from learning how to plan trips, events, and

even meetings where everyone has input and is included.”

DiSalvo still spends a lot of time outdoors as an adult, so all of the skills she learned camping and hiking with the Girl Scouts still help her today. She currently volunteers with a Senior Girl Scout troop in Derry, and helped out in the Western New York council and the Girl Scouts of our Nation's Capital council when she lived in each of those places briefly.

DiSalvo advises anyone facing a challenge to “Rely on your community! Having a strong network will get you farther than you might think,” she said. “Trust your knowledge and skills, and then team up with your sisters and you can overcome anything.”

You are likely to find DiSalvo where other Girl Scout alums are.

“I am always interested in meeting up with other alums!” she said. “Bonus points if you're as obsessed with the WAGGGS World Centres as I am, particularly Pax Lodge - or if you're also 20-something!”

Girl Scouts earning Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards make lasting contributions to their communities

Girl Scouting has always focused on making the world a better place by improving girls' skills and confidence, and through community service. Our Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards recognize the achievements of the highest level of service among Girl Scouts. These girls make a lasting impact on their communities and the world. Thirteen Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors have earned the Gold Award this membership year, with dozens more making their mark with the Cadette Silver Award and the Junior Bronze Award in our council.

Girl Scouts start early, learning to care for their community, animals, and themselves. Troops at all levels take action with food and clothing drives for people and animals, do community cleanups, make hats and scarves for those in need, and so much more. The Juniors in grades 4 and 5 have the opportunity to work as a team on their Bronze Award, as do Cadettes in grades 6-8 for their Silver Award. Gold Award Girl Scouts reach the pinnacle with individual projects to change the world in a lasting way. Among the group earning this highest award are Molly Ewing, who created a series of podcasts to educate the public about how the non-profits partly funded with their tax dollars help their towns; Lillianna Fowler, who created more than 45 educational videos to help children learn American Sign Language; and Genevieve Wiechert, who created a patch program and videos to help address the lack of education about LGBTQIA identities and issues.

Gold Award Girl Scout Elizabeth Whitney, 19, earned her highest award this year by helping animals in shelters. "I



think that it was a good confidence boost for me," she said. "My personal leadership style is to lead by example. I'm usually more of a team player, not a captain. This got me outside my comfort zone. I found it was something I can actually do and do well - organizing people and adapt."

Building mile markers along a trail in Salem in the past year also showed Gold Award Girl Scout Evy Vlahos, 17, the value of taking action in her community. "I learned new ways to publicize and promote projects or ideas I may have in the future," she said. "I also learned how to raise money for a project, which gave me new ideas for future reference. Lastly, I improved my presentation skills and realized that I am not afraid to speak in public."

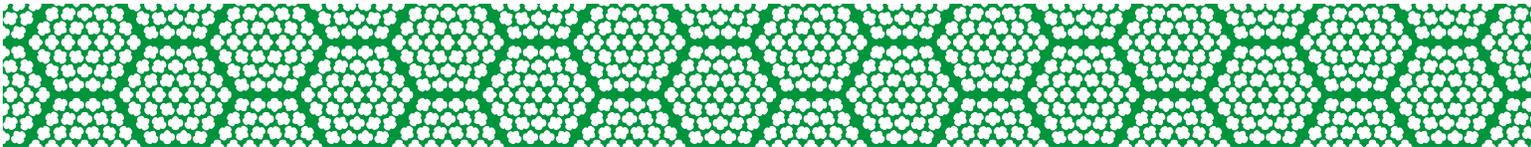
Alum Megan Cook has found success in life which she attributes to Girl Scouting.

"I've been a lifelong Girl Scout. Started as a Daisy age 5 and continued through 12th grade, then as a Girl Scout camp counselor and later a Girl Scout leader/volunteer," she said. "Participating in Scouting definitely helped me build confidence and leadership skills that have helped me succeed as an adult

(personally and professionally). I'd also say that Girl Scouting helped instill a passion in me for community service and desire to give back. I now volunteer in many ways beyond Scouts and it has certainly enriched my life."

But it's not about the recognition – it's about making the world a better place. Girl Scout alums know that, and they often continue to give service in many ways, whether it's leading a Girl Scout troop, running for office, or making quilts to donate to sick children. Those who earned the Gold Award – or its predecessors: the First Class, Curved Bar, Golden Eaglet, or Golden Eagle of Merit – are more likely to hold leadership roles, volunteer or donate to causes they support, attain a college or graduate degree, and generally be more satisfied with life – personally, professionally, and financially, according to the latest study by the Girl Scout Research Institute.

That study, the Girl Scout Alum Difference, shows that whether you earned a high award or not, Girl Scout alums are more likely than other women to be more civically engaged and involved, and be satisfied with life. Girl Scouting makes a profound positive difference in girls' lives.



Even the youngest Girl Scouts can take action to make the world a better place

Amelia Eckhardt may be only 6 years old, but she has the drive, confidence, and business savvy of any CEO. This Girl Scout Daisy and homeschooled first-grader is working hard to make the world a better place with Girl Scout Cookies, potholders, and her can-do attitude.

“Last year was her first cookie season,” said her mother, Kimberly Eckhardt, of Landgrove, VT. “She set herself a lofty goal of 500 cookie boxes sold. To give you some perspective, there are only 120 people who live in our town. But, that was what she wanted to work towards, so that was what we set. I told her that although I would help her, I would not do anything for her. For example, Amelia needed to learn to dial the phone and have conversations in order to sell cookies. She had to have conversations with adults in person as well.”

Kimberly set up a staff meeting at her workplace, and let Amelia do her Girl Scout Cookie presentation and field questions all on her own.

“She built a lot of confidence doing this, and by the end of February, she was chatting up everyone about cookies!” Kimberly said. “A woman in the hot tub at the ski mountain told Amelia she would love to buy cookies from her, but she doesn't live in Vermont. Amelia replied with, ‘That's OK, I have a business card with the address of my online cookie store! You can buy there and ship to your home.’ The other guests at the hot tub were suitably impressed as well, and that nice woman purchased cookies!”

Why does she do it? “Everyone can



Girl Scout Daisy Amelia Eckhardt made a success of her Girl Scout Cookie business as well as a potholder sale. Girl Scouts are committed to making the world a better place. (Courtesy photo)

make a difference if they want to!” said Amelia.

She's said she's learned to always say please and thank you, and always be nice to people

Amelia has been homeschooled during this COVID-19 pandemic, and learned about sea turtles being hurt by plastic waste in the ocean. She decided to “get a job” to donate money to support turtles, and came up with the idea of weaving potholders to sell.

“She determined fair prices, and went to it,” Kimberly said. “Since we could not do any in public really, she decided to create flyers to advertise. We rode our bikes miles upon miles to put flyers in mailboxes. She talked to people on the phone. Eventually, when things started opening up over the summer, she chatted with people in person. She talked to a store owner, and they offered her

space to do a pop-up shop and reach more customers. She jumped on this, too. She talked to all the customers, answered all their questions, and was quite confident in what she was doing, and why.”

Why potholders? “It's the only thing I know how to make, besides hugs, but those are free!” she said.

Amelia has been busy with this since last April, and made donations to two charities, with a third lined up.

Kimberly credits the Girl Scout Cookie Program with giving her daughter the skills to be a success, even at this young age.

“I have no doubt that the confidence she gained during cookie season is how this has come about, and part of why she believes that she can make a difference at six years old,” she said.

Support is strong from public with cookie donations

The public was very generous this year with their donations to the Operation Cookie Gift of Caring and Hometown Heroes programs this cookie season, providing for 32,243 packages of cookies to be given to our military service people and essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

That is an increase of almost 50 percent, according to Robin Boyd, manager of product sales for Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. "Additionally, our Advancement team received donations to include 1,287 packages bringing our total amount to 33,530 packages to be distributed this year," she said.

Those who bought cookies as donations power the Girl Scout experience, providing funding for girls to participate in the largest entrepreneurial program for girls in the world. Through Girl Scouting, girls from kindergarten through 12th grade learn essential life skills, become leaders, blaze new trails, and excel in STEM fields.

Among some of the groups receiving Girl Scout Cookies through these programs this year are the Vermont National Guard; Pease Greeters in Portsmouth, NH; police, fire and EMT departments in Barre and Thetford, VT, and Milford, NH; the New Hampshire and Vermont chapters of the American Red Cross, New Hampshire National Guard and health care workers at the COVID vaccination station in Concord, NH; the Rutland Armory in Vermont; The New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, NH; U.S. Post Offices in Bedford and Manchester, NH, and Williston,



The Girl Scouts of Troop 13946 in Dover, NH, had a very successful cookie season, and collected 149 boxes for the Gift of Caring programs, which they donated to five community programs in their area. They also donated an additional 17 packages of cookies to the council's Hometown Heroes program. (Courtesy photo)

VT. More deliveries are planned for Catholic Medical Center, Elliot Hospital, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock in New Hampshire, Camp Ethan Allen in Colchester, VT; the New Hampshire National Guard Armory in Manchester, NH; and the New Hampshire National Guard in Portsmouth, NH.

Hometown Heroes Donors

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Beta Sigma Phi
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Our alums are a force for good

Farnsworth quilters make and donate dozens of quilts, spread smiles

The Farnsworth quilters of 2019 decided at their last event that they wished to create quilts to donate back to our communities. Little did they know that the well laid-out plan to create 20 quilts would be challenged by the pandemic, but resulted in twice as many quilts being donated.

A string quilt involves sewing thin strips of fabric together on a 10x10 backing with a center strip of black material. Many of the Farnsworth quilters and several friends, created over 600 blocks that were then processed by a core group into the final quilts. This core group selected 20 blocks that went well together color wise, trimmed them to all be the same size, then sewed them all together and added a colorful border. Next they added batting and a backing fabric, and then machine quilted all the layers together. The final step was to sew a binding on the edge of all the quilts.

As the first quilts were being assembled, COVID-19 hit and most locations would no longer accept outside donations, so the team continued to process all the string blocks, knowing that they would be needed in the future.



From left are Katherine Goodwin of the Kimi Nichols Center, Joanne Dickie, Deb Drake, and Stephanie Gosselin, with some of the string quilts the group donated. (Courtesy photo)

The team finally wrapped up all the quilts, and they were so surprised to see there were 48 quilts to donate. These talented quilters delivered 27 quilts to the pediatric floor at the Vermont Medical Center pediatric ward. The hospital was excited to see quilts that could be used for small children as well as their teenagers and young adults.

The team also delivered the final batch of 21 quilts to the Kimi Nichols Center in Plaistow, NH, which were distributed to their 21 clients in the residential program for adults with developmental and intellectual challenges.

A big thank you goes out to all the alums and friends who helped in creating more than 600 string blocks, Carolyn Longchamp, Martha Northcutt, Nancy A., Nicole Merriam, Karen Kiernan, Sue Bates, Debbie Drake, Renee Gosselin, Stephanie Gosselin, Linda Trust, Jessica Fairchild, Joyce Martin, Cheryl Heneveld, Marie Abbatinozzi, and Joanne Dickie.

Thanks also to the core team of alums - Debbie Drake, Stephanie Gosselin, Renee Gosselin, Sue Bates, and Joanne Dickie for assembling and finishing the quilts during the COVID-19 quarantine



A quilt on a bed at the Vermont Medical Center pediatric ward. (Courtesy photo)



A client of the Kimi Nichols Center reacts with joy to receiving a quilt. (Courtesy photo)